

REMARKS

Claim 9 is pending.

Applicants' Response to the Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Presently, claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 9 to more distinctly describe the subject matter of the invention.

Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 9 wherein the phrase "characterized by" is removed and the steps whereby the toner image is formed on the recording medium surface are set forth in customary U.S. claim language.

Applicants respectfully submit that in light of these amendments to claim 9, the claim has been rendered properly definite within the meaning of §112, second paragraph, and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

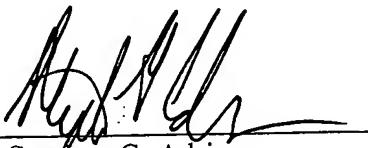
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, it is believed that this application is not in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number below to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No.: 10/614,240
Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated March 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 12, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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